

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

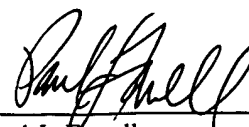
Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, it is respectfully requested that the references listed in the attached form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the above-identified application. A copy of each reference is attached hereto.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 28, 2003.

Dated: January 28, 2003

  
Paul J. Farrell

The listed items were cited by the Canadian Intellectual Property Office in a counterpart application, namely Appln. No. 2,308,252. A copy of the Canadian Office Action dated December 6, 2002 is attached hereto.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

**CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2)**

Applicants submit that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application no more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

Respectfully submitted,



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